

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

1. **Date of the Municipal Election- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:2-3, the election must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year, the election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:15-2, polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
2. **Residency requirement for candidacy** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:9-1.13, candidates must reside in the local unit which they are seeking to represent at least **one (1) year** prior to the election. Consequently, all candidates must have been residents of Jersey City since **November 1, 2020**; those seeking to run for Ward Councilperson must have been a resident of that Ward since **November 1, 2020**.
3. **Date of the Run-Off Election - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-19, if no candidate receives a majority in the November election, then the top two (2) candidates for Mayor and Ward Councilperson go to a run-off election. In the case of Council at-Large candidates, if the top three candidates fail to receive a majority in the November election, then the top six (6) candidates go to a run-off election. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-19, the run-off election is to be held on the fifth Tuesday after the Municipal Election. This year, the run-off election will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.
4. **Filing deadline for Petitions - MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(a), all candidates seeking municipal office must obtain a pre-determined number of valid Nominating Petitions to qualify for the ballot. N.J.S.A. 40:45-8 mandates that candidate petitions must be filed with the City Clerk by the 64th day prior to the Municipal Election. This year, the 64th day prior to the Municipal Election will be Monday, August 30, 2021. The City Clerk's Office closes at 4:00 P.M. **Accordingly, petitions are due on August 30, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-11, a candidate can only be nominated for **one (1) office at a time**.
5. **Format of the Petition** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-9(a), the City Clerk is responsible for providing candidates with the form petitions and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(b), each petition shall contain the name of **one (1) candidate**.

Each petition shall include the language as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(a) and which is copied below:

I, the undersigned, a registered voter of (name of the municipality), residing at (address of petitioner) certify that I do hereby join in a petition of the nomination of (name of candidate) whose residence is at (address of candidate) and whose email address is (email address of candidate) for the office of (Mayor or Councilperson-at-Large, or Ward councilperson) [of Ward ____] to be voted for at the election to be held in (name of the municipality) on (date of the election), and I further certify that I know this candidate to be a registered voter, for the period required by law, of the (name of the municipality) [and

the Ward, in the case of a candidate for Ward councilperson] *and a person of good moral character, and qualified, in my judgment, to perform the duties of the office, and I further certify that I have not signed more petitions or certificates of nomination than there are places to be filled for the above office.*

Print name: _____ Sign name: _____

6. **Number of Petitions required** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(a), candidates for Mayor or Council at Large must obtain petitions equal to 1% of the total number of registered voters in the municipality and candidates for Ward Council must obtain petitions equal to 1% of the total number of registered voters in the Ward. Based on 167,958 voters registered for the November 2020 General Election, candidates for the following municipal offices must secure the following number of petitions:

Mayor: **1,680** (Based on 167,958 registered voters in Jersey City)
Councilperson at-Large: **1,680** (Based on 167,958 registered voters in Jersey City)

Ward Council

Ward A: **294** (Based on 29,440 registered voters in Ward A)
Ward B: **250** (Based on 25,034 registered voters in Ward B)
Ward C: **233** (Based on 23,253 registered voters in Ward C)
Ward D: **227** (Based on 22,653 registered voters in Ward D)
Ward E: **369** (Based on 36,885 registered voters in Ward E)
Ward F: **307** (Based on 30,693 registered voters in Ward F)

It is strongly recommended that candidates file **more** petitions than are necessary to be eligible by the statutory filing date as some petitions may be invalidated by the City Clerk upon inspection and **no new petitions can be filed after the August 30th filing deadline.**

7. **Requirements for Petition signatories** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(a), only registered voters who reside in Jersey City can sign petitions for candidates for City-wide municipal office such as Mayor and Council at Large. Moreover, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-9(b), a registered voter can only sign the petition of the candidate seeking the Ward Council seat of the Ward in which that registered voter resides. For example, a resident of Ward A cannot sign the petition of a candidate seeking to run for the Ward B Council seat; he or she can only sign a petition for someone seeking the Ward A Council seat.

Additionally, a registered voter can only sign **one (1)** petition for a Mayoral candidate, **three (3)** petitions for Council at Large candidates and **one (1)** petition for a Ward Council candidate. If a voter signs more than the specified number of petitions, then the Clerk's Office will only certify the petitions of the *first* candidate to file. For example, if a voter signs a petition for two different candidates for Mayor, Candidate A & Candidate B, and Candidate B files his petitions for Mayor before Candidate A, then the voter's petition for Candidate B will be counted and the voter's petition for Candidate A will be discarded.

Voters must print **and** sign their names clearly on the petition.

If a newly registered voter signs a petition, then the original Voter Registration Form **must** be attached to the petition.

Each petition will have a space for a number in the upper right-hand corner. Petitions **must** be numbered and submitted in consecutive order.

8. **Filing deadline to cure defective Petitions - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-9(d), candidates have until 4:00 P.M. on the 61st day before the Municipal Election to cure any defective petitions. Examples of a defective petition include, but are not limited to, petitions which are illegible, petitions in which the voter printed his or her name but did not sign his or her name, petitions which are signed by individuals not registered to vote, or petitions which are signed by individuals who, according to the most recent records on file, do not appear to reside in the Ward for which the candidate is running to represent. This year, the 61st day prior to the Municipal Election will be Thursday, September 2, 2021. **Accordingly, cured petitions are due that day at 4:00 P.M.**

IMPORTANT: While candidates will have an opportunity to cure defective petitions, if possible, candidates **may not** file new petitions after the August 30th deadline.

9. **Application for Candidacy; contents** In order to be placed on the ballot for the November 2021 Municipal Election, all candidates must submit a complete Application for Candidacy **and** submit the requisite number of valid petitions for the office sought as specified in Part 6 above, on or before the August 30th deadline. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8(b), the Application for Candidacy **must** include a notarized Oath of Candidacy, signed by the candidate, and a notarized Campaign Manager's Oath signed by the campaign manager. The Application for Candidacy shall include the following documents:

- (1) A notarized Oath of Candidacy;
- (2) A notarized Campaign Manager's Oath;
- (3) A notarized Certificate of Acceptance & Pledge of Allegiance;
- (4) Appointment of a Campaign Manager Form;
- (5) Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer & Bank Depository Form
- (6) Request for Ballot Designation/Slogan Form (if applicable)*; and
- (7) Request for Ballot Bracketing & Designation/Slogan Form (if applicable)*.

If a candidate intends to serve as his or her own campaign manager and/or campaign treasurer, he or she must **still** complete a notarized Campaign Manager's Oath, Appointment of a Campaign Manager Form and an Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer & Bank Depository Form. The candidate should list his or her own name on the Campaign Manager's Oath and list "Self" on the Appointment of a Campaign Manager Form and/or the Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer & Bank Depository Form. **All** candidates must provide the name and address of the bank in which they intend to deposit any funds raised by their campaign on the Campaign Treasurer & Bank Depository Form.

* All candidates must provide a ballot designation or slogan; those candidates running with a slate of candidates must complete the Request for Bracketing & Designation/Slogan Form; those candidates running alone would complete the Request for Ballot Designation/Slogan Form.

PLEASE NOTE: The City Clerk's office **will not** notarize any documents for candidates seeking office or for their campaign manager.

10. **Filing Petitions electronically; procedure** In accordance with Executive Order of the Governor # 216, and in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, candidates for municipal office have the option to file petitions electronically. Candidates will be provided with standard paper petitions by the Office of the City Clerk and may also download electronic petitions from the City Clerk's webpage. Candidates may file both paper and electronic petitions if they so choose. Those wishing to file electronic petitions must follow the instructions on the City Clerk's webpage. Electronic petitions must be received on or before **Monday, August 30, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. ONLY petitions may be filed electronically; all other forms which comprise the Application for Candidacy MUST be filed in paper form.**
11. **Examination of filed petitions** Once petitions are submitted, the City Clerk will examine the petitions to determine their validity. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-9(c), the Clerk will retain defective petitions and notify the candidate in writing of any defects. This written notice shall be delivered to the candidate personally or by certified mail to his or her place of residence as stated on his or her petition. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-9 and Part 8 above, candidates will have an opportunity to cure defective petitions, if possible, but as noted in Section 6, **no new petitions can be filed after the August 30th deadline.**
12. **Notice to Election Law Enforcement Commission (E.L.E.C.)** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-8c, the City Clerk shall immediately provide E.L.E.C. with official certification of the filing or withdrawal of a petition of nomination.
13. **Selection of ballot Designation/Slogan** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-10, candidate(s) may request that the a designation/slogan be printed opposite their name on the ballot for the purpose of indicating either an official act or policy to which the candidate(s) are pledged or committed. The designation/slogan **cannot be more than six (6) words** and it must be must be filed with Clerk on or before the August 30th deadline. The designation shall **not** indicate political party affiliation.
14. **Grouping/Bracketing candidates on ballot** If several candidates request that their names be grouped together and that the one designation/slogan named by them shall be printed opposite their names on the ballot, the Clerk shall group their names in a bracket, and opposite the bracket shall print the requested designation/slogan. Petitions requesting a grouping of candidates with a designation/slogan shall be filed with the Clerk on or before the August 30th deadline. If two candidates or groups of candidates select the same designation/slogan, the

Clerk shall notify the candidate or group of candidates whose petition was last filed that they must select a new designation/slogan. (N.J.S.A. 40:45-10).

15. **Drawing of ballot positions; order of names on ballot** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-12, the City Clerk shall draw lots to determine the order in which the names of the candidates or groups of candidates will appear on the ballot.
16. **Candidates with identical names** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-14, each candidate can request a slogan containing not more than six (6) words opposite their name on the ballot as a means of identification.
17. **Publishing of sample ballot** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-13, within ten (10) days after the drawing for ballot position, the City Clerk shall publish the names of all the candidates as they are to appear on the ballot. This sample ballot shall be published once in each of two (2) newspapers having circulation in the City and published in this State.
18. **Tallying of votes** In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-16, on the day following the election, the City Clerk shall tally all election returns, including all absentee ballots, and immediately make the results known to the public.